

1. (Amended) A method of increasing the power handling capability of a power line, the method comprising:

providing a conductor configured to transmit energy intermediate plural locations;

supporting the conductor at a plurality of positions intermediate the locations, the supporting at a plurality of positions defining a plurality of spans within the conductor;

creating a model of the conductor following the supporting step;

identifying a critical span within the modelled conductor;

altering the modelled conductor responsive to the identifying step;

and

analyzing the modelled conductor following the altering step.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising analyzing the modelled conductor at an increased operating condition and the identifying [being] step is responsive to the analyzing the modelled conductor at the increased operating condition.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein the altering [the conductor] step includes at least one of removing a portion of the modelled conductor and adjusting the positioning of one of the clamps [within] relative to the modelled conductor.

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1 5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 further  
2 comprising identifying another critical span following the analyzing step.

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4 6. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 further  
5 comprising [repeating the altering and analyzing following the identifying  
6 the another critical span] altering the conductor following the analyzing  
7 step.

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9 7. (Amended) The method according to claim [1 further  
10 comprising optimizing including repeating the altering and the  
11 analyzing] 6 wherein the altering the conductor step comprises at least  
12 one of removing a portion of the conductor and adjusting the  
13 positioning of at least one clamp coupled with the conductor.

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15 8. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the  
16 analyzing step comprises using a digital computer.

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18 10. (Amended) The method according to claim 9 further  
19 comprising:

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20 creating a model of the conductor;

21 analyzing the modelled conductor at an increased operating  
22 condition; and

23 identifying a critical span responsive to the analyzing step, wherein  
24 the altering step is responsive to the identifying step.

1 11. (Amended) The method according to claim 9 further  
2 comprising:

3 [analyzing the modelled conductor following the altering]  
4 creating a model of the conductor; and  
5 altering the modelled conductor, wherein the altering the conductor  
6 step is responsive to the altering the modelled conductor step.

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8 12. (Amended) The method according to claim 11 further  
9 comprising:

10 identifying a critical span following the [analyzing] altering the  
11 modelled conductor step; and

12 repeating the altering the modelled conductor step responsive to  
13 the identifying step.  
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15 13. (Amended) The method according to claim 11 further  
16 comprising optimizing steps including repeating the altering the modelled  
17 conductor step and the analyzing step.  
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1 14. (Amended) A method of increasing the power handling  
2 capability of a power line, the method comprising:

3 providing a conductor configured to transmit energy intermediate  
4 plural locations;

5 creating a model of the conductor;

6 first analyzing the modelled conductor at an increased operating  
7 condition following the creating step;

8 identifying a critical span following the first analyzing step;

9 altering the modelled conductor responsive to the identifying step;

10 and

11 second analyzing the modelled conductor following the altering  
12 step.

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14 15. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 wherein the  
15 first analyzing step comprises analyzing the modelled conductor at a  
16 maximum operating temperature.

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18 16. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 wherein the  
19 first and second [analyzings] analyzing steps individually comprise using  
20 a digital computer.  
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1 17. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 further  
2 comprising [supporting the conductor using a plurality of clamps] altering  
3 the conductor following the first analyzing step and the second analyzing  
4 step.

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6 18. (Amended) The method according to claim 17 wherein the  
7 altering step includes at least one of removing a portion of the  
8 modelled conductor and adjusting the positioning of [one of the clamps  
9 within] at least one clamp coupled with the modelled conductor.

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11 19. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 further  
12 comprising:

13 identifying another critical span following the second [modelling]  
14 analyzing step; and

15 [repeating the altering and modelling following the analyzing  
16 another critical span] altering the modelled conductor following the  
17 identifying the another critical span.

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19 20. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 further  
20 comprising optimizing steps including repeating the altering step and the  
21 second analyzing step.